

ODDS AND ENDS.

Rev. Ulatto Monsarzo, a native African evangelist, contends that both Solomon and David were black.

The sign "B" or "Bs," which is often used instead of pound or pounds, is of ancient origin and is simply a contraction of the word "libra," which is Latin for pound.

The armchair, once owned and used by Dr. Samuel Johnson, the lexicographer, writer and brilliant conversationalist, has been sold at auction at Denbigh, Wales, for £33 7s.

India has perhaps a greater variety of plants than any country in the world, having 15,000 native species, while the flora of the entire continent of Europe only embraces about 10,000.

The "nova constellatio" coppers of 1783, so highly valued by collectors, were made in Birmingham, England, for Governor Morris. Forty tons of copper were used in the manufacture.

Many of the Hebrew wedding rings were "tower rings," the set bearing the shape of a smaller tower in which was inclosed a slip of parchment containing a prayer for the happiness of the couple.

A writer in the Chattanooga Tradesman says that the south is rich in gold deposits from Virginia to Alabama. Millions can be made by properly developing the southern goldfields, the writer further says.

While a linenman was fixing a wire near Los Angeles the other day he was attacked by a large eagle. He fought the bird with a hammer, stunned it, and, hurrying down, dispatched the eagle. He was badly hurt.

A survey for a new railway which will build will draw the trade of southeastern Mexico and northern Guatemala to British Honduras or Belize has been made. The road will open immense forests, mahogany and other valuable woods.

The Rev. Edward Everett Hale says that Ralph Waldo Emerson on one of his ocean trips committed Milton's "Lycidas" to memory to write away a few otherwise unprofitable days, and that he never heard of any one else who did that on such a voyage for pastime.

Poisonous snakes are so numerous in Venezuela that snake bite is almost as common there as in India. But there are fewer fatalities, for the natives have discovered that a plant known as the coucou, when powdered and applied to the wound, results in a cure in almost every case.

The difference between the atmosphere of the best ventilated houses and the outer air is illustrated by the conduct of cut flowers. Blossoms that retain their freshness but a day or two when standing in water within doors will sometimes live twice as long when dropped in a shady place out of doors.

The Spaniard, however courteous he may be, never invites a guest to dinner. In Italy, too, the privacy of the family is seldom invaded at the dinner hour. The Frenchman is delighted to entertain, but prefers to do it at his club, while the Englishman is never so genial as when seated at his own table with company surrounding him.

Mongolian Ingenuity.

Great care is taken by the customs officials to prevent any communication between the Chinese on the steamers from China and their friends on shore. This is done to prevent coolies getting information that will assist in proving them to be merchants. In spite of the precautions of the officers forbidden letters are often smuggled upon the steamers.

Though the Chinese are not allowed to talk with their friends, they are allowed to send them fruits, cakes and other simple articles. Papers have often been found inside boxes of bread, in oranges, pears, apples and other fruits. This fact has made the inspectors very wary. Yet it was only by the merest chance they intercepted a letter Saturday to a Chinese desirous of landing.

The steamer China brought a large number of Chinese over. One of them, Chang Pang, declared himself to be a merchant. As a merchant he would have to give an exact list of all his partners, together with the amount invested by each. Fearing he might not be able to answer these questions a list was prepared for him. Then the Celestials planned carefully to get to him. Saturday afternoon a group of Inspector Campbell's three clerks. He asked that they be given to Chang Pang. The clerks seemed all right, and the inspector was about to take them on board when he noticed that one was a little soft. Tearing it open, he found carefully curled up inside a letter on the thinnest of paper. Freely translated its contents were:

"When you land, you must say you belong to the firm of Quong Giet Chong & Co., 610 Jackson street. There are eight partners, each of whom has invested \$1,000. The names of the partners are Louis Hen, Chan Chang, Chan Lou, Chan Ten, Chan Kee Sing, Chan Pang and Chan See Toy. Be sure to answer your partnership correctly."—San Francisco Chronicle.

A New York Incident.

A short, stout man, with broad shoulders and deep chest, stood at Thirty-third street at 2 o'clock Monday morning gazing absently into Broadway.

He had a close cropped brown mustache, tinged with gray. His face was round and full. He wore a short, dark overcoat and a black derby hat. He leaned against the iron fence inclosing the patch of grass known to be knighted Tenderloiners as a park. A stocky figure in bowery clothes slunk up to him from behind and began:

"Footy city, eh, boss?"

"Light," grunted the short man without so much as moving his big shoulders.

"Fine graft if yer knows where ter pipe it," continued the speaker.

"Huh!" grunted the other, and the shoulders and overcoat moved slightly.

"Cert, an ef yer wants ter fill yer quills, why I'm de duck wot will pipe de gossin—dat is, fer a consideration."

"Well, wot yer say?" "I'll take yer roun. Dere's a quiet game goin, or dere's flip wimmen, or"—and here he whispered—"dere's a chance ter whack der greenies."

As he enumerated his list of attractions he leaned over close to the man in the overcoat.

"Come on," he persisted. "Talk biz. I'll take yer roun fer tree cases."

By this time he was almost facing his hearer.

"Come, Great Scott! Billy McLaughlin! Police Inspector McLaughlin grabbed for him, then changed his mind and thrust his hands into his pockets, buried his face in the folds of his coat, chuckled and started down town.

When he was asked yesterday about the identity of the confidence man, he simply smiled.—New York Sun.

Zola Justified.

When M. Zola wrote his repulsive story of French peasant life, it was said that such things as he described could not be. But a case which has just been tried at the assizes in the department of the Yarn shows that in "La Terre" we have unfortunately only too true a picture. An old man named Verrier had ceded his farm to his son, stipulating that he should have food and lodging. He was immediately placed in the worst room of the house and starved by his brutal son. One day the younger Verrier asked his father to come to the stable and help him to move a large empty tub. As the old man stooped down, his son pushed him into the tub and turned it over. Then he put heavy stones on it and locked the stable door. After three days he again went to look, and finding his unhappy father still alive he strangled him. The son has been sentenced to death, his only defense being that the old man was too expensive.—Exchange.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Burning paraffin may be quenched by throwing flour upon it.

In breeding any kind of stock always breed to something that is an improvement on what you now have.

A tombstone in Green Grove cemetery, near Keyport, N. J., was seized by a constable to satisfy a claim for debt the other day.

The Washington Post estimates that there are 548,750,000 acres in the south, 308,000,000 acres of which are good arable land.

Types are not used in printing Persian newspapers. The "copy" is given to an expert penman, who writes it out neatly. Then his work is lithographed.

At the last census there were in the United States 1,430 manufacturers of confectionery, employing nearly 19,000 hands. The yearly value of their products exceeded \$25,000,000.

Next to that of umbrellas, the ownership of books is perhaps the least respected. Hence the philosophical though rude remark "that fools lend books and wise men borrow them."

The day is usually reckoned as being 33 hours in length. Strictly speaking, such is a mistake. The standard unit of time is the "sidereal day," which is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.092 seconds in "solar" "mean" time.

The little town of Newport, Hants county, Nova Scotia, has a population of about 1,400, and there are among them 40 persons, 22 of them women, whose united ages produce in all 3,360 years, an average of 84 years each.

The points of the compass can be told from trees by the following simple observations: The side of the trees on which most of the moss is found is the north. If the road will open immense forests, mahogany and other valuable woods.

Crete, or Candia, is a very fertile island covered with an abundant growth of aromatic herbs, myrtle, orange, lemon, almond and pomegranate trees. Not long ago the people of Crete made a desperate effort to secure their independence from Turkey, but they were not successful.

The Japanese tattooers not only picture dragons and flowers and musmes on the bodies of their patrons, but to meet the artistic demands of Europeans they now produce in colors an exact photograph of any cherished friend whose image the tattooed person may desire to have constantly with him.

A Girl Who Breaks Wild Horses.

Miss Edith Dadami is a slip of a girl who lives on her father's farm near Collinsville, in Solano county. She is 17 years old, 5 feet 14 inches high and weighs 128 pounds. Beyond she has no more than the average woman's share of beauty and the strength and grace which come with perfect health. Of course there are other girls in the Montezuma hills, but none can ride a horse like Miss Dadami, and when it comes to throwing a lasso most of the young men take off their broad brimmed hats to her and stand in respectful admiration.

In the matter of strength this 128 pound girl occasionally picks up a 125 pound sack of barley and tosses it into a wagon just for the fun of the thing. Some years ago Miss Dadami took a fancy to an unbroken horse in her father's herd. Jumping on a mustang, she cut out the wild animal, drove him into the corral, secured him in a corner, saddled him, mounted his back and turned him loose. He plunged, reared, kicked and bucked, but all to no purpose, for the plucky girl held her seat and mastered him completely.

She is an expert herder, going among the horses and cattle with all the reckless daring of a typical cowboy. She knows the market rates of poultry, pigs and grain, can tell the value of a horse by looking at him and cook a meal or milk a cow with equal facility.

But with all this she is an easy conversationalist, sings prettily, has a delicate touch on the piano, uses a painter's brush and palette with much skill and has a great local reputation as a needlewoman, and, with all this, she has found time to fall in love.—San Francisco Examiner.

Criminal Festivals.

The great solemn popular festival of the Khonds included the annual immolation of a victim. After three days of indescribable orgies, in which women often participated dressed like men and armed like warriors, the victim was bound to a stake in the midst of the forest and left there all night alone. In the morning the people returned, with a great noise of bells and gongs, singing and shouting. When the multitude had become well intoxicated with the uproar and greatly excited by the disorderly dances, the grand priest would command silence and recite a long prayer, and then they would slay the victim, usually with a single stroke of the knife. The multitude, which had been waiting for that moment, rushed upon the quarry with piercing cries, each one trying to tear a piece of the palpitating flesh, to back the body to pieces.

A criminal ceremony exists among the tribes of the interior of Sumatra, which is without doubt the survival of an ancient and very curious custom, that has passed in the course of time into a civil and religious duty. These people, although of rather gentle disposition, piously and ceremoniously kill and eat their aged parents in the belief that they are performing a sacred duty. At the appointed day the old man who is destined to be eaten goes up into a tree, at the foot of which are gathered the relatives and friends of the family. They strike the trunk of the tree in cadence and sing a funeral hymn. Then the old man descends, his nearest relatives deliberately kill him, and the attendants eat him.

With some peoples animals take the place of human victims, but what we have said is sufficient to show that even with these people collective crime was formerly a solemn ceremony, although individual crime was already regarded as something to be condemned.—M. Guillaume Ferrero in Popular Science Monthly.

The "Dunmow Flitch."

It is in the ancient town of Dunmow, in North Essex, England, that every year the high court of love is held, and wedded couples who live in peace and harmony lay claim to the celebrated "Dunmow Flitch." Baron Fitzwater, who, tradition says, was the institutor of the quaint ceremony, lived in the twelfth century, and to him is attributed the saying, "He which repenteth him not of his marriage, either sleeping or waking, is a year and a day may lawfully go to Dunmow and fetch a gammon of bacon."

It is refreshing to learn that in the present year of grace three couples deemed themselves worthy the award and presented themselves before the jury, which is composed of six young maidens attired in white and six very youthful and beardless bachelors. The claimants sat during trial on old fashioned seats "made for two," which, when the award has been made, are hoisted on long stretchers and the loving couple borne in triumph around the race course. Following them come the judge and the advocates in their robes of office, the crier proclaiming silence with the wonted formula, then the white robed maidens and the beardless boys of the jury, and lastly the chaffing crowd.—London Letter.

The Glacier Theodolite.

About 1887 a horseshoe was found under the ice of the glacier Theodolite in Switzerland, which led geologists to the idea that this pass, 3,323 meters high, was formerly not imbedded in ice. This has been further confirmed by a recent find of coins bearing the likenesses of Augustus and Diocletian.—Journal of Education.

The Future of Astronomy.

Miss Agnes M. Clerke speaks encouragingly of the possibilities of important developments in astronomy within the next few years. Astronomers are better prepared today for the work of observation; they cannot only see better and farther, but the record has been made automatic. The personal equation is in a measure eliminated. The telescope has been supplemented by the spectroscopic and the photographic camera. Inquiries are made telescopically, and the march of planets or comets becomes illustrations.

Miss Clerke doubts whether reflectors will be made much larger, and she thinks the size of the speculum has about reached its practical limits. The almost distinctive faculty of reflectors, however, is that of throwing rays of all refrangibilities to a focus together. They are naturally achromatic. The trouble is that the larger the reflector the more difficult it is to get what astronomical observers call "perfect definitions." Great reflectors from their size are likely to become deformed. If a mirror bends, the object reflected becomes distorted.

A gigantic reflector is promised for the year 1900. The mirror of silvered glass is to be 10 feet in diameter and will be placed in a tube 100 feet long. With this immense instrument the moon will be brought within only a few miles of the earth. Celestial photography has of late accomplished marvelous results. The chemical plate has advantages over the human retina, because it is sensitive to rays which the eye does not appreciate at all. It is even possible to photograph objects so faint as to be altogether beyond the power of any telescope to reveal, and we may thus eventually learn whether a blank space in the sky truly represents the end of the stellar universe in that direction or whether farther and farther worlds roll and shine beyond, veiled in the obscurity of immeasurable distance.—Chicago Record.

An Intelligent Tourist.

There are some people who know it all and others who think they do, and the latter are apt to make the greatest show of knowledge.

One of this species stood near the bow of a Champlain steamer one day. He had a remarkably sunburned complexion, he carried a guidebook in one hand, three real time tables and a map in the other, and he was bursting with information. Finally, unable to stand it longer, he approached a small man who was leaning thoughtfully over the rail.

"My friend," he said impressively, "I suppose you know that those gray and fallen walls over there on the west shore are all that remains of the world famous Fort Ticonderoga?"

"No, I didn't know it," said the small man simply.

"Well, sir, they are. It was on that spot that the English commander was called from his bed to surrender in the name of the continental congress. It was along these shores," added the man with the ruddy complexion, waving the fluttering time tables oratorically, "that the French and Indians fought the English. Every stone, sir, is crowded with history."

"Ticonderoga, hey!" said the other reflectively. "Do you live up here?"

"No, I live in New York."

"Born here perhaps?"

"No, sir."

"Travel up and down the lake pretty often, I suppose?"

"Well, no; this is my first trip," reluctantly admitted the owner of the guidebook.

"This, hey? Well, I was purser of this boat for nine years, and I know every foot of that shore. That ruin over there is Sampson's dock, and Ticonderoga is 17 miles south of here. Anything else to tell?"

—Waverly Magazine.

Dogs as Fire Alarms.

Nature has so fashioned the dog's nose that the nasal bones are convoluted and rolled in scrolls, upon which his olfactory nerves are spread so that the entire space from his eyes forward is a most intricate and delicate "smelling machine," and the largest which has been given to any living creature. The organ is extremely sensitive, especially in the spaniel breed.

One of these "little jewels" in the house will not only instantly warn all inmates against intruders, but will be the first to discover, by its sensitive nose, that most deadly and dreadful of all the elements—fire—which constantly creeping stealthily upon the unconscious sleepers and suffocates them in their beds or arouses them only to die a horrible death in the stifling, smoke filled halls and stairways.

No spaniel or hunting dog can rest an instant while the slightest puff of smoke is irritating his sensitive nostrils. He will fret and whine and increase the volume of his alarm until the household is aroused, and do all this long before any human being can detect the faintest odor of smoke. He is indeed a most prompt, speedy, reliable fire alarm, which never fails and never gets out of order while his life lasts.—New York Herald.

Wonderful Marine Plants.

The diatoms, of which there is an infinite number of forms and species, belong to the seaweed family and are microscopic organisms of wonderful shapes and rare beauty. They are single celled plants and are so small that the most talented representatives of the vegetable kingdom. Most plants are but an aggregation of an immense number of cells of greater or lesser diameter, but as above hinted the diatom is but a single cell, and this so minute that 1,000 of the spindle shaped variety, laid end to end, scarcely suffice to make one inch!

The living plant is a beautiful object of microscopic study, but it is not to be compared with the delicate skeleton of a properly prepared specimen. They are found in every imaginable shape and form—circular, oblong, flat and square, cubical, watch shaped, oval, triangular, wedge shaped, crooked, screw or corkscrew shaped, like pill boxes, lead pencils, boats, turtles, etc.

Skeletons of extinct varieties may be found in almost any kind of soil, among the sands of rivers and creeks, or even in waste wells. They are very delicate and delicate, single specimens (note size above) frequently exhibiting 10,000 interstices.—St. Louis Republic.

Pneumatic Roadways.

Pneumatic shoes are a late invention. The soles are furnished with four circles of inflated rubber. They prevent the least shock in walking over hard roads and walks. It is strange that some genius doesn't invent an inflated pavement for roads. The idea is not a new one. Several years ago, when Bill Nye was thrown from his horse one day and alighted upon a hard pavement with painful results, he suggested that if it wouldn't cost any more it would be a great improvement to upholster roads instead of jarring them. Hereafter it has always been the road taxes that have been inflated. Now let somebody make himself notorious by inflating the roads.—Pomona (Cal.) Progress.

Curtains Made of Glass.

Glass curtains are a novelty in household furnishings. They are in colored glass and have the effect when closed of stained glass. They consist of a series of little squares of colored glass, each set in a small zinc frame, the squares being attached to each other at the four corners by little S shaped hooks. They are so made that they can be as easily taken down and moved as any other curtains, and in case of changing from one size of window to another can easily be enlarged or decreased in size by the addition or subtraction of a certain number of squares. They are also easily cleaned, and one of their particular attractions is said to be cheapness.—London Inventions.

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